## REMARKS

Applicant respectfully traverses the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 1-3, 7-8,10, and 12 over PCT/AU00/00383 to <u>Cimmino</u>; the § 103(a) rejection of claim 11 over <u>Cimmino</u> in view of U.S. Patent 6,179,790 to <u>Cundari</u>; and the § 103(a) rejection of claims 4-6, and 9 over U.S. Patent 6,445,284 to <u>Cruz-Hernandez</u>.

As recited in the present claims, a convexo concave amplifying device for exhibiting a convexo concave by detecting a convexo concave of an object and amplifying a sense of the same comprises a sensing member comprising a flexible sheet able to deform along the surface of the object; and an exhibiting member that has a deformation resistance smaller than that of the flexible sheet in at lest one of a plurality of directions orthogonal to a direction of thickness of the flexible sheet. Even if the surface of the object is concave or convex, therefore, it is possible to exhibit the shape of the surface by amplifying the same. It is possible to simultaneously detect a concave portion and a convex portion in a sensing member comprising a flexible sheet.

In contrast, in <u>Cimmino</u> a flexion is measured using a change in capacitance of a coil. Concretely, when a flexible non-extensible support is flexed and is deformed into a convexity, a change in capacitance is detected because the distances of coils which are formed in one side of the support enlarge. When the coils are closely disposed in the flexible non-extensible support, a deformation into a convexity of the flexible non-extensible support can be detected due to an enlargement of the distances of the coils, however, it cannot be deformed into a concavity. Accordingly, only the deformation (flexion) into a convexity can be detected. Furthermore, even if the coils are disposed with clearances therebetween, the neighboring coils are contacted due to the

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deformation into a concavity, or the distances of the coils are overly-enlarged due to the deformation into a convexity. A precise detection, therefore, becomes impossible.

When both concave and convex deformations are generated in an entire length of the coil, it detects the change in capacitance over its entire length of the coil. Consequently, it is not possible to detect precisely. In the technique disclosed in Cimmino, as shown in the examples, it is possible to detect whether the fingers are bending or not applying to a glove; nevertheless, there is no disclosure or suggestion to detect a convexo concave of an object.

Neither Cruz-Hernandez, nor Cundari provide the teachings or suggestions missing from Cimmino.

For all of the above reasons, claims 1-12 are patentable over Cimmino, Cruz-Hernandez, and Cundari.

Applicant also has added new claims 34 and 35 to round out the coverage to which it is entitled. These claims recite that the exhibiting member includes an inclined surface, and protrusions which include in a tangential direction that is proportional to a product of an inclined angle $\theta$ of the inclined surface and a thickness T of the convexo concave amplifying device, wherein thickness T is a sum of a thickness of a sensing member and a length of the protrusions. These features are disclosed, *e.g.*, in paragraphs [0074] - [0075] and are not new matter. These features also are neither disclosed nor suggested in Cimmino or Cruz-Hernandez, or Cundari, and therefore, claims 31 and 32 also are patentable over the cited references.
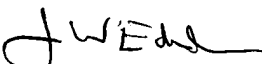
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of claims 1-12 and 34-35.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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